

# Northpoint PTO Meeting Minutes

## October 6, 2009

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Amy Hennen, PTO President, welcomed everyone to the second Northpoint PTO meeting of the 2009-2010 school year. Those in attendance at the meeting approved the September meeting minutes.

### **Presentations**

#### Dr. Helmstetter and Dr. Ronneberg

Superintendent Dr. Helmstetter and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Ronneberg spoke about the levy that will be on the ballot this November 3, 2009. The Spring Lake Park School district has not passed a levy since 2002. In 1999 a levy was passed, but is expiring this November since a levy is good for 10 years. There will be two questions on the ballot for the levy. The first question is regarding voting to extend the expiring levy, which would result in no increase in taxes. The second question is regarding revoking the 2002 levy and replacing it with another levy. This would increase taxes by approximately \$4 per month for every \$100,000 in home value. If this levy passes, it will bring in \$1.5 million to the district. If it does not pass, there will be reductions in programs and services which will impact classrooms. Dr. Helmstetter and Dr. Ronneberg are more than happy to answer questions. They are available to attend sessions with groups who would like to discuss the levy and ask questions. For further information, see the Spring Lake Park district website at [www.springlakeparkschools.org](http://www.springlakeparkschools.org).

The following questions were asked and the following answers were given:

Q: Will there be two separate levies on the ballot in 10 years or would these levies be combined into one?

A: Dr. Helmstetter responded that they will remain separate, and there would again be two separate questions in 10 years.

Q: If these levies do not pass, when can the district ask for a levy again?

A: Dr. Helmstetter responded that they must wait a full calendar year, so not until November 2010.

#### Annette Winrick

Annette reminded everyone that if they or someone they know are going to be gone on November 3, that they should get an absentee ballot so they can vote. There are four open spots on the school board which will also be on the ballot this November.

Carloline King, Northpoint Media Specialist

Caroline works at Northpoint half time and at Woodcrest Elementary half time. There are 30 classes at Northpoint that check out books from the library each week. Caroline gave a big thank you to the PTO for contributing funds to the library, and to those who participated in last year's book fair to help earn new books for the Northpoint library. She received almost \$5000 last year from the PTO and book fair combined and was able to purchase 486 wonderful new books for the students to enjoy! She pointed out that there has not been a line item on the district budget for the library for over 15 years. She discussed how she chooses the books she does (including reviews, book lists and adhering to Policy 606). She wants to have a variety of books to get students not only excited to learn to read, but to *want* to read. Destiny is the name of the new web-based library system. By the second semester of this school year it may be available for third graders to use.

Someone asked if there are Spanish books available, and Caroline answered that there are not currently, but she would like to purchase some.

#### Mr. Callahan, Northpoint Principal

Mr. Callahan reminded everyone that the fundraiser fun run is on October 7. Conferences will be held Monday and Tuesday evening, October 12 and 13, and all day on Wednesday, October 14. Parents are highly encouraged to attend and to come prepared with questions. Thursday, October 8 is an early release day (school is over at 1:45) and there is no school for students on Friday, October 9. These times are for professional staff development. He reminded everyone that when students are not at school but teachers and staff are, teachers are learning.

Mr. Callahan reviewed the district framework.

On October 23 at 9:30 Mr. Callahan will be hosting coffee with the principal. Everyone is welcome to attend. If there are specific topics that anyone has in mind to talk about, please let Mr. Callahan know in advance so he can be prepared.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Kelly Rademacher, PTO Treasurer, reviewed the budget and pointed out that the fundraiser brought in a total of \$21,583.54 which exceeded the amount of \$20,000 originally put in the budget. Amy Hennen, PTO President, suggested that the PTO give an additional \$200 to each of the specialists (art, music and physical education) above the original \$200 for a total of \$400 per specialist. A vote was taken and this was approved by those in attendance.

#### **Activities Update**

##### Chair appreciation

Thank you were extended to the following people who have chaired committees so far this school year:

- Ann Corrigan and Jen Edlund for the Meet Your Teacher event
- Whitney Woodford and Pam Wellen for the fall fundraiser
- Laura Dickinson for the school kits

### School Kits – Feedback and Discussion for next year

Parents and teacher Jean Nolby agree that the school kits were great! One bit of constructive feedback given is that it should be communicated what students will need in addition to the school kit (including a sock to use as an eraser and math money).

### Apparel

Jen Edlund reported that she is up-to-date on filling orders and will be placing an order once per month.

### Fundraiser

Pam Wellen reported that the fundraiser was a huge success, and that the fun run was rescheduled for Wednesday, October 7 due to rain.

### Fall party

The fall party will take place at Northpoint on Friday, October 23. There will be BINGO, hayrides (thanks to the Comer family), a DJ, tattoos and arts and crafts. Pizza, chips, cookies and beverages will be available for sale, as well as a snack for those with peanut allergies. Contact Laura Dickinson if you are able to help at the event.

### Book Fair

The Scholastic book fair will be held in the Northpoint Media Center Monday, October 12-Wednesday, October 14.

### Conference Meals

Shaun Olson reported that the menu for conference meals will be soup, salad and sides on Monday and taco bar on Tuesday.

### Ink cartridges

We need to get a sign-up sheet to be able to participate in the discount program at Cartridge World. If anyone is there and can get one, please do so and put it in the PTO mailbox. Thank you!

### Open microphone

No questions or comments.

**\*\*REMINDER - NEXT PTO MEETING IS ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2 AT 6:30\*\***